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Secretary of State Henry Kissinger
Tokyo-Seoul-Peking

Dear Henry -

I hope this will catch you somewhere en route, through the courtesy of my friend Joe Lelyveld, of The New York Times, who is going to China with you. I have just returned from my first trip to Vietnam in a year, where the situation is once again politically turbulent and fascinating, reminiscent to me of 1945-6. I shall be glad, if you are still interested enough in this back-burner question, to offer you a survey and some ideas when I am through writing my piece. Please let me know via the Hong Kong Consulate.

In the meantime, I would very much appreciate your help once more, in trying to arrange a month's trip to China for me, to do some stories in depth on how the Chinese deal with various matters, including the food problem, and to make whatever trips they are willing to arrange for me. For me, as you know, it would be a sentimental return to a country I admire and a visit to a people for whom I have always had a great affection. My pleas for a visit have so far been completely unanswered. Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua should remember from me from my Newweek days in Shanghai, in the mid-forties, when he often briefed us and introduced us all to Prime Minister Chou. Do, please, if it is at all possible, solicit his help in my behalf and offer him my regards and congratulations on his recent appointment.

With warm regards to you,

Bob Sharlen